

ORIGINAL

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
DALLAS DIVISION

U.S. DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
FILED
JUL 23 2008
CLERK OF DISTRICT COURT
By

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

JOSEPH KELLY LARA
a/k/a Nick Deangelis Mancuso (1)
a/k/a J. Kelly Armani

§
§
§
§
§
§

3-08 CR 230-D
No.

INDICTMENT

The Grand Jury Charges:

Counts One and Two

Wire Fraud

(Violations of 18 U.S.C. § 1343)

1. From in or about the summer of 2004 and continuing until on or about December 21, 2004, in the Dallas Division of the Northern District of Texas and elsewhere, the defendant, **Joseph Kelly Lara a/k/a Nick Deangelis Mancuso a/k/a J. Kelly Armani** ("the Defendant") knowingly and with intent to defraud devised a scheme and artifice to defraud the First State Bank of Thermopolis, Wyoming ("FSB") and to obtain money and property from FSB by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises.

2. At all times relevant to this Indictment, FSB was a financial institution, the deposits and accounts of which were insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Manner and Means

3. As part of the scheme and artifice, the Defendant would and did:
 - a. Operate a business called Atlantic Equity Investments, LLC (“Atlantic”), which purported to be a securities firm, and which had offices in Irving, Texas, in the Northern District of Texas;
 - b. Cause Atlantic to maintain one or more accounts at banks including Chase Bank, NA in Irving, Texas in the Northern District of Texas;
 - c. Meet with an officer of FSB at Atlantic’s offices in Irving, Texas, in the Northern District of Texas;
 - d. Falsely represent to an officer of FSB that he was an attorney specializing in securities law, when in fact he was not an attorney;
 - e. Falsely represent to an officer of FSB that he had been associated with the Wall Street securities firm Goldman, Sachs & Co., when in fact he had never been associated with that firm or any Wall Street securities firm;
 - f. Represent to an officer of FSB that his name was “Nick Mancuso,” rather than his true name, which was Joseph Kelly Lara, thereby concealing the fact that, as Joseph Kelly Lara, he had been convicted of fraud and theft in Arizona and had served a term of imprisonment;

- g. Submit to FSB a forged Statement of Financial Condition, purporting to have been prepared by a certified public accountant, which falsely represented the Defendant's net worth to be more than \$18 million;
- h. Apply for and obtain loans from FSB based on materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises;
- i. Cause loan proceeds from FSB to be wire-transferred to the account of a car dealership at a bank in Mesquite, Texas, in the Northern District of Texas, for the purchase of a vehicle to be used by a person associated with Atlantic;
- j. Cause loan proceeds from FSB to be wire-transferred to a bank account held by Atlantic and controlled by the Defendant at Chase Bank, NA in Irving, Texas in the Northern District of Texas; and
- k. Take and use the proceeds of loans made by FSB for his own use and benefit and that of his associates.

Wire Transmissions

4. On or about each of the dates set forth below, in the Dallas Division of the Northern District of Texas and elsewhere, the Defendant, for the purpose of executing the aforesaid scheme and artifice, did knowingly and with the intent to defraud cause to be transmitted in interstate commerce, by means of wire communication, certain writings, signs, signals, pictures and sounds through and to the Northern District of Texas, each such transmission constituting a wire transfer of loan proceeds from FSB in Wyoming in

approximately the amount set forth below, and each such transmission constituting a separate count of this Indictment:

<u>Count</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Recipient</u>
1	November 16, 2004	\$35,145	Town East Ford Chase Bank, NA Account No. #####8366 Mesquite, Texas
2	December 21, 2004	\$170,000	Atlantic Equity Investments, LLC Account No. #####8565 Chase Bank, NA Irving, Texas

Each in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1343.

Counts Three and Four
Bank Fraud
(Violations of 18 U.S.C. § 1344)

1. At all times relevant to this Indictment, First State Bank of Thermopolis, Wyoming ("FSB") was a financial institution, the deposits and accounts of which were insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

2. From in or about the summer of 2004 and continuing until on or about December 21, 2004, in the Dallas Division of the Northern District of Texas and elsewhere, the defendant, **Joseph Kelly Lara a/k/a Nick Deangelis Mancuso a/k/a J. Kelly Armani** ("the Defendant"), knowingly and with intent to defraud, attempted to execute and did execute a scheme and artifice to defraud FSB and to obtain money and funds owned by and under the custody and control of FSB by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises.

Manner and Means

3. The Grand Jury hereby adopts, re-alleges, and incorporates herein by reference all allegations set forth in the "Manner and Means" section of Counts One and Two of this Indictment.

Execution

4. On or about each of the dates set forth below, in the Dallas Division of the Northern District of Texas and elsewhere, the Defendant, knowingly and with intent to defraud, attempted to execute and did execute the aforementioned scheme and artifice by obtaining a loan from FSB in the amount set forth below, based on the materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations and promises described above under "Manner and Means."

<u>Count</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
3	November 16, 2004	\$35,145
4	December 21, 2004	\$170,000

Each in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1344.

Count Five
Bank Fraud
(Violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1344)

1. At all times relevant to this Indictment, Compass Bank in Dallas, Texas in the Northern District of Texas ("Compass Bank") was a financial institution, the deposits and accounts of which were insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

2. On or about December 16, 2004, in the Dallas Division of the Northern District of Texas and elsewhere, the defendant, **Joseph Kelly Lara a/k/a Nick Deangelis Mancuso a/k/a J. Kelly Armani**, knowingly and with intent to defraud, attempted to execute and did execute a scheme and artifice to defraud Compass Bank and to obtain money and funds owned by and under the custody and control of Compass Bank by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, by presenting and depositing, and causing to be presented and deposited, into an account held and controlled by the Defendant at Compass Bank a check for \$200,000, well knowing and intending that the bank account against which the check was drawn held insufficient funds to cover the check, and that, by presenting and depositing the check, and causing it to be presented and deposited, he would and did defraud and obtain money from Compass Bank.

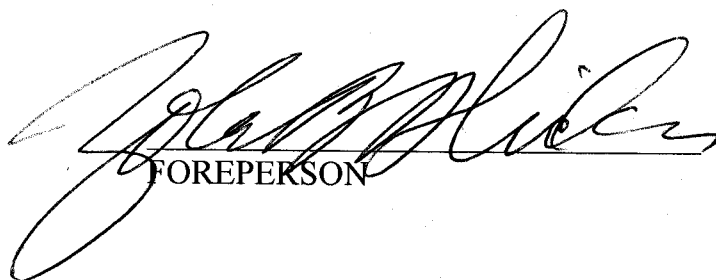
In violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1344.

Count Six
Forfeiture Allegation
(18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c))

Upon conviction for any of the offenses alleged in Counts One through Five of this Indictment, the defendant, **Joseph Kelly Lara a/k/a Nick Deangelis Mancuso a/k/a J. Kelly Armani**, shall forfeit to the United States any property, real or personal, constituting or derived from proceeds traceable to the respective offense, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c).

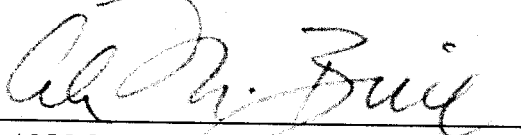
Pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853(p), as incorporated by 18 U.S.C. § 982(b), if any of the property subject to forfeiture pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C) in combination with 28 U.S.C. § 2461, as a result of any act or omission of the defendant, cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence; has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third person; has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the Court; has been substantially diminished in value; or has been commingled with other property which cannot be subdivided without difficulty, it is the intent of the United States of America to seek forfeiture of any other property of the defendant up to the value of the above-described property subject to forfeiture.

A TRUE BILL



FOREPERSON

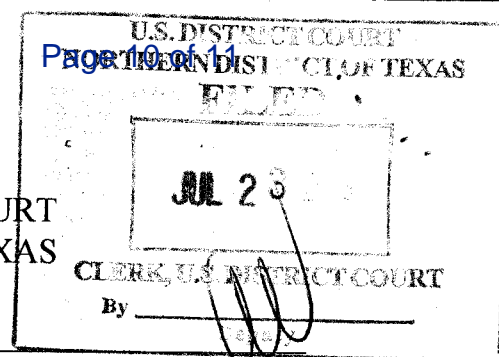
RICHARD B. ROPER
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY



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ORIGINAL

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
DALLAS DIVISION



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

3-08 CR 230-D

JOSEPH KELLY LARA
aka "Nick Deangelis Mancuso"
aka "J. Kelly Armani"

INDICTMENT

18 U.S.C. § 1343
Wire Fraud

18 U.S.C. § 1344
Bank Fraud

18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c)
Forfeiture Allegation

6 Counts

A true bill rendered

DALLAS

FOREPERSON

Filed in open court this 23 day of JULY 2008.

DEFENDANT IN CUSTODY

Clerk

UNITED STATES DISTRICT/MAGISTRATE JUDGE

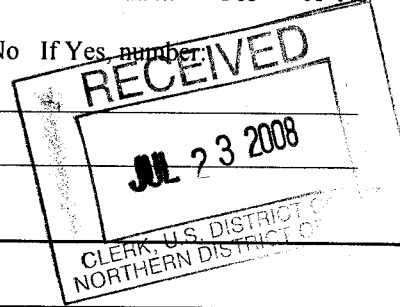
Criminal Complaint Pending : 3:08-MJ-220

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

ORIGINAL

Related Case Information

Superseding Indictment: ☐ Yes ☒ No New Defendant: ☐ Yes ☒ No
Pending CR Case in NDTX: ☐ Yes ☒ No If Yes, number: _____
Search Warrant Case Number _____
R 20 from District of _____
Magistrate Case Number: 3:08-MJ-220



1. Defendant Information

Juvenile: ☐ Yes ☒ No

If Yes, Matter to be sealed:

☐ Yes ☒ No

Defendant Name

JOSEPH KELLY LARA

Alias Name

aka "Nick Deangelis Mancuso"; aka "J. Kelly Armani"

Address

County in which offense was committed:

Dallas

2. U.S. Attorney Information

Alan M. Buie

Bar # 00783751

3. Interpreter

☐ Yes ☒ No

If Yes, list language and/or dialect: _____

4. Location Status

~~Issue Arrest Warrant~~ *ay*

ay ☒ Already in Federal Custody
☐ Already in State Custody
☐ On Pretrial Release

5. U.S.C. Citations

Total # of Counts as to This Defendant: 6

☐ Petty

☐ Misdemeanor

☒ Felony

Citation

Description of Offense Charged

Count(s)

18 U.S.C. § 1343

Wire Fraud

1, 2

18 U.S.C. § 1344

Bank Fraud

3 - 5

18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C) and
28 U.S.C. § 2461(c)

Forfeiture Allegation

6

Date

21 July 08

Signature of AUSA:

Alan M. Buie